

without this invaluable work, and it should be available in every medical and hospital library.

MARGRETTA R. SEASHORE
Departments of Genetics and Pediatrics
Yale University School of Medicine

JABLONSKI'S DICTIONARY OF SYNDROMES AND EPONYMIC DISEASES. 2nd Edition. By Stanley Jablonski. Malabar, FL, Krieger Publishing Company, 1991. 665 pp. \$99.50.

Stanley Jablonski has outdone himself. The second edition of his text, *Jablonski's Dictionary of Syndromes and Eponymic Diseases*, is a massive expansion of his previous work. He has hit upon a useful and imaginative enterprise and, with the assistance of the National Library of Medicine's *Medlars* data base, improved and refined it. The achievement is the gathering of the profuse numbers of disease syndromes and their copious eponyms into a single volume. Arrested in time at one moment, the list is complete. In the next moment, a new syndrome will be created or named, and the compendium will be, again, short. Such is the fate of medicine and communication, and such is why we need Stanley Jablonski.

The book is a substantive 665 pages long. Each page is brimming with interest: syndrome names and their synonyms, definitions of the syndromes, the original reference article for each listing, and an account of the physician for whom the syndrome is named. The author also includes pictures and diagrams on selected entries which illustrate the essence of the disease. Illustrations are used to enhance definitions, especially when the disorder itself resists written description.

Information for the work was collected through a systematic analysis of a pool of 95,000 journal articles, which required no less than 20 years' time. The publishers were in awe; they write that it "represents an encyclopedic achievement and we hope that the information in the thousands of eponyms presented will make this a valuable tool for physicians and laymen alike."

Consider the entry of Adie syndrome. William John Adie was a British neurologist who lived from 1886 to 1935. Synonyms for Adie syndrome include Kehrer-Adie syndrome, Markus syndrome, Saenger syndrome, Weill-Reys syndrome, iridoplegia nonluetica, Argyll Robertson pupil, myotonic pupil, myotonic pupillary reaction, pseudotabes pupillotonica, tonic pupil syndrome, and still others. The syndrome is defined as "a neurological phenomenon in which one or both slightly enlarged pupils respond slowly or not at all to light, accompanied by slow constriction and relaxation in the change from near to distant vision, impaired accommodation, and absent tendon reflexes, particularly ankle and knee jerk." Next, the author provides five references, each of which purports to have discovered a previously undescribed complex of signs.

All in all, the book surpasses expectation. It is an achievement which does justice to the creativity and imagination of centuries of medical minds. Communication is everything in medicine; it is the medical endeavor in all respects. *Jablonski's Dictionary of Syndromes and Eponymic Diseases* is an original, interesting, invaluable effort at furthering communication, a catalog of knowledge and teaching. Stanley Jablonski is a teacher of teachers.

LAUREN ERIC KRIEGER
Medical Student
Yale University School of Medicine